
U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

Gordon P. Eaton, Director

Reston, VA 20192

For information, contact:

John W. Blossom, Commodity Specialist

Telephone: (703) 648-4964, Fax: (703) 648-7757

E-mail: jblossom@usgs.gov

Lisa Harley, Statistical Assistant

Barbara McNair, Statistical Assistant

MINES-DATA: (703) 648-7799

MINES FaxBack: (703) 648-4999

Internet: <http://minerals.er.usgs.gov/minerals>

MOLYBDENUM IN FEBRUARY 1997

Domestic production of molybdenum in concentrate decreased 7% in February 1997 compared with that of the previous month and was 9% more than in February 1996, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Producer molybdenum stocks in concentrate, oxide, and other product forms were 8,250 metric tons at the beginning of 1997 and 8,390 metric tons at the end of February 1997.

Included in this Mineral Industry Surveys (MIS) are U.S. production, shipments, and stocks of molybdenum concentrates and materials in February 1997, plus U.S. consumption by end use of molybdenum in January and February 1997. Also included are trade data for January 1997. During February 1997, Platt's Metals Week U.S. monthly average price for

molybdenum concentrate was \$4.960 per kilogram (\$2.250 per pound).

The average price for dealer molybdenum oxide was \$10.130 per kilogram (\$4.595 per pound) and that for dealer ferromolybdenum was \$11.949 per kilogram (\$5.428 per pound).

For the week ending May 2, 1997, Metals Week U.S. average price for molybdenum concentrate was \$4.960 per kilogram (\$2.250 per pound). The average price for dealer molybdenum oxide was \$9.865 per kilogram (\$4.475 per pound) and that for ferromolybdenum was \$11.904 per kilogram (\$5.400 per pound).

TABLE 1
U.S. SALIENT MOLYBDENUM CONCENTRATION STATISTICS 1/

(Metric tons, contained molybdenum)

Item	1996 p/	1997		
		January	February	Year to date
Production	56,000	5,430	5,100	10,500
Shipments: 2/				
Domestic	16,100	1,330	1,130	2,460
Export	19,700	1,860	1,640	3,500

p/ Preliminary.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes molybdenic oxides, metal powder, ammonium molybdate, sodium molybdate, and other.

TABLE 2
U.S. REPORTED CONSUMPTION, BY END USES, AND CONSUMER STOCKS OF MOLYBDENUM MATERIALS IN 1997

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

End use	Molybdenic oxides	Ferro molybdenum 2/	Ammonium and sodium molybdate	Molybdenum scrap	Other	Total
January:						
Steel:						
Carbon	46,700	25,700	--	--	W	72,300
Stainless and heat-resisting	234,000	11,200	--	--	W	245,000
Full alloy	228,000	137,000	--	--	W	365,000
Electrical	W	W	W	--	--	W
High-strength low-alloy	29,900	9,160	--	--	--	39,100
Tool	53,600	4,000	--	--	W	57,600
Cast irons (gray, malleable, and ductile iron)	3,190	W	--	--	W	3,200
Superalloys	76,500	W	--	29,700	41,400	148,000
Alloys: (other than steels, cast irons, and superalloys)						
Welding materials (structural and hard-facing)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other alloys 3/	--	W	--	534	W	534
Mill products made from metal powder 4/	--	--	--	--	2,020	2,020
Cemented carbides and related products 5/	--	224	--	--	--	224
Chemical and ceramic uses:						
Pigments	--	--	864	--	--	864
Catalysts	77,300	--	W	--	W	77,300
Other 6/	W	--	--	--	W	W
Miscellaneous uses:						
Lubricants	--	--	--	--	11,200	11,200
Other	--	--	W	--	--	W
Unspecified uses:	2,870	59,500	75,800	--	200,000	339,000
Total	752,000	247,000	76,700	30,300	255,000	1,360,000
Stocks, January 31, 1997	466,000	144,000	8,870	5,820	814,000	1,440,000

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 2--Continued
U.S. REPORTED CONSUMPTION, BY END USES, AND CONSUMER STOCKS OF MOLYBDENUM MATERIALS IN 1997

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

End use	Molybdc oxides	Ferro molyb- denum 2/	Ammonium and sodium molybdate	Molyb- denum scrap	Other	Total
February:						
Steel:						
Carbon	38,800	20,700	--	--	W	59,500
Stainless and heat-resisting	180,000	9,780	--	--	W	190,000
Full alloy	198,000	149,000	--	--	W	347,000
Electrical	W	W	W	--	--	W
High-strength low-alloy	34,000	10,000	--	--	--	44,000
Tool	76,600	4,120	--	--	W	80,700
Cast irons (gray, malleable, and ductile iron)	3,200	53,700	--	--	W	56,900
Superalloys	W	W	--	W	36,800	36,800
Alloys: (other than steels, cast irons, and superalloys)						
Welding materials (structural and hard-facing)	--	W	--	--	--	W
Other alloys 3/	--	68	--	W	2,020	2,090
Mill products made from metal powder 4/	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cemented carbides and related products 5/	--	--	--	--	--	--
Chemical and ceramic uses:						
Pigments	--	--	742	--	--	742
Catalysts	77,300	--	W	--	W	77,300
Other 6/	W	--	--	--	W	W
Miscellaneous uses:						
Lubricants	--	--	--	--	11,400	11,400
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--
Unspecified uses:	104,000	10,100	76,100	35,300	175,000	400,000
Total	712,000	258,000	76,800	35,300	225,000	1,310,000
Stocks, February 28, 1997	540,000	154,000	8,720	67,000	814,000	1,580,000

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Unspecified uses."

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes calcium molybdate.

3/ Includes magnetic and nonferrous alloys.

4/ Includes ingot, wire, rod, and sheet.

5/ Includes construction, mining, oil and gas, and metal working machinery.

6/ Includes ground coat, glass, silicone, electroplating, and drier in paint or related uses.

TABLE 3
U.S. REPORTED PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF MOLYBDENUM PRODUCTS 1/

(Metric tons, contained molybdenum)

Product	1996 p/	1997		
		January	February	Year to date
Gross production	46,300	4,790	4,830	9,620
Internal consumption 2/	23,900	2,250	2,140	4,390
Gross shipments	24,100	2,650	2,580	5,230

p/ Preliminary.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes molybdc oxides, metal powder, ammonium molybdate, sodium molybdate, and other.

TABLE 4
U. S. EXPORTS OF MOLYBDENUM ORES AND CONCENTRATES
(Including roasted concentrate), BY COUNTRY 1/

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

Country	1996		1997	
	January-December	December	January	Year to date
Australia	60,900	--	9,090	9,090
Belgium	12,400,000	599,000	57,200	57,200
Brazil	20,400	--	--	--
Canada	268,000	10,400	32,100	32,100
Chile	6,990,000	878,000	--	--
China	1,290,000	218,000	--	--
France	5,620	--	--	--
Germany	505,000	--	--	--
India	58,600	--	--	--
Italy	384,000	11,400	19,900	19,900
Japan	5,140,000	390,000	520,000	520,000
Korea, Republic of	10,200	--	--	--
Mexico	5,500,000	193,000	10,900	10,900
Netherlands	5,890,000	--	404,000	404,000
Spain	19,900	--	18,400	18,400
Sweden	473,000	20,000	71,100	71,100
United Kingdom	6,010,000	134,000	1,140,000	1,140,000
Other	--	--	9,030	9,030
Total	45,000,000	2,450,000	2,290,000	2,290,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF FERROMOLYBDENUM, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

Country	1996		1997	
	January-December	December	January	Year to date
Canada	252,000	40,800	34,000	34,000
China	--	--	130	130
Japan	117,000	1,330	2,650	2,650
Korea, Republic of	1,910	--	--	--
Malaysia	37,200	--	--	--
Mexico	117,000	12,300	1,980	1,980
Singapore	53,900	--	--	--
Spain	1,160	--	--	--
Venezuela	1,090	282	--	--
Total	581,000	54,700	38,800	38,800

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF MOLYBDENUM PRODUCTS 1/

(Kilograms unless otherwise specified)

Material	1996			1997		
	January-December			January		
	Gross weight	Contained molybdenum	Value (c.i.f.) (thousands) r/	Gross weight	Contained molybdenum	Value (c.i.f.) (thousands) r/
Ore and concentrates roasted	8,090,000	5,460,000	\$41,300,000	717,000	443,000	\$4,130,000
Ore and concentrates other	35,600	21,100	173,000	--	--	--
Molybdenum chemicals:						
Oxides and hydroxides	1,160,000	--	8,850,000	262,000	--	1,790,000
Molybdates of ammonium	665,000	368,000	5,360,000	68,600	30,200	567,000
Molybdates (all others)	82,500	36,400	506,000	19,000	7,510	118,000
Molybdenum orange	1,840,000	--	5,710,000	141,000	--	457,000
Mixtures of inorganic compounds	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ferromolybdenum	7,870,000	4,960,000	55,100,000	547,000	346,000	3,740,000
Molybdenum powders	125,000	110,000	3,470,000	4,760	3,720	143,000
Molybdenum unwrought	91,100	84,400	2,380,000	11,800	10,000	313,000
Molybdenum waste and scrap	693,000	640,000	9,720,000	2,140	2,100	31,300
Molybdenum wrought	--	--	--	--	--	--
Molybdenum wire	1,990	--	320,000	181	--	31,100
Molybdenum other	3,870	--	1,060,000	160	--	33,800
Total	20,700,000	11,700,000	134,000,000	1,770,000	842,000	11,400,000

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.